

ASK THE CAREER ENGINEER!

Francina R. Harrison, MSW

Q: Ms. Francina Harrison, I have been interviewed for the past three months several times at many business. I do believe that there is a problem because I am not getting hired. I think that I am presenting myself well at the interviews but not well enough because I am not being called in for a job. My guess is that something I am doing wrong with my interviews. I would like to meet with you and seek your help in the proper skills for interviewing. From your advertisement, I believe that you can help me with this problem, can you? *Donna, Newport News*

A: Dear Donna, congratulations on getting the interviews, that in itself is an achievement, particularly in such a tight market. Hopefully, the answer to your question should help you in your job search. Consider the following suggestions:

1. Interviewing, like riding a bike, is a skill and requires practice. The interview process is all about having great answers to tough questions. Think about the questions that made you feel “uncomfortable” during your past interviews. I suggest writing those questions down so that you can research the reasons they were difficult for you to answer. This may require some deep “soul searching.”
2. Make sure your job search is producing the employer/job lead results that you need. What I mean by this is, make sure you are not interviewing with companies that greatly exceed or radically reduce your skill sets. In those cases, you may have made it to the interview chair, however, deemed “over” or “under” qualified.

There is a plethora of books on the subject of interviewing that you can find at your local library or online. If you feel, that you need a more personalized approach from a career coach who can “teach” you how to harness and focus your employment preparation skills, then that’s a great way to go. Good luck!

If you have a question for “The Career Engineer” send an email to francina@thecareerengineers.com. Author of the book, *A Mind to Work: **The Life and Career Planning Guide for People Who ~~Want~~-Need to Work!*** For more information on Harrison & Associates, call 757-420-1109 or visit our website at www.thecareerengineers.com.